

SLANT

• No surprise that the **timber industry in Oregon** still has enough lobbying power to stifle the Democratic Legislature when it comes to even minor new rules on aerial spraying of pesticides on private timberlands. The timber industry has a strong ally in Oregonians for Food and Shelter, which represents big chemical manufacturers and distributors. What can we do other than hold our lawmakers' feet to the fire? Well, when the Legislature fails to make reforms, the people can rise up. How about a ballot initiative that would *outright ban aerial spraying* on private timberlands? Oregon labor might well get behind this effort since it would create thousands of forestry jobs.

• We hear the **People's Earth Day in the Park!** celebration has a new date of Saturday, April 25, and will run from 2 to 7 pm at Alton Baker Park. The alternative to the canceled Earth Day Celebration at EWEB was originally scheduled for April 18. Details are still being worked out but we hear from Sabrina Siegel, one of the organizers, that Thomas Mapfumo is confirmed to play, along with classical guitarist Ricardo Cárdenas and other local bands and musicians. Speakers so far include Mayor Kitty Piercy and Thomas Wheatley, executive director of Renew Oregon, a new statewide climate coalition. Paul's Bicycle Way of Life will be a hosting a bike repair station at the event. To get involved, email sabrinasiiegel@gmail.com or call 343-1913. To arrange for a booth, visit wkly.ws/1zz.

• At City Club of Eugene on April 10, one question fired at **Commissioner Pete Sorenson** was why he is supporting a "flat tax," the Lane County vehicle registration fee on the ballot in May. Pete responded that the proposed fee is \$35 per vehicle per year, with some variation for motorcycles, etc., as allowed by state law, so it is not truly a flat tax. After the formal meeting, he said he was convinced to support it by the angry constituent who complained that he had four vehicles, adding up to \$140 per year to maintain county and city roads. That's convincing to us, too.

• A public hearing on **bills to increase the minimum wage** to \$15 an hour drew hundreds of people to Salem the night of April 13. The Senate Workforce Committee and House Business and Labor Committee heard from small business owners, farm workers, in-home caretakers, janitors and lots of people calling themselves "the working poor." In general, small business owners and restaurant owners (including from Old Spaghetti Factory and Outback Steakhouse) testified that raising the minimum wage would put them out of business and workers out of work. The hearing lasted more than an hour longer than scheduled, after Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) said they'd hear testimony "as long as people were still sitting up." Will we put off raising the minimum wage yet another year? The benefits far outweigh the problems.

• Eugene's **counterculture** helps define our community, much to the irritation of some well-starched and proper conservatives. Eugene Celebration downtown is still on hiatus, but the quirky parade and SLUG Queen Coronation will continue, along with Saturday Market, the Whiteaker Block Party, Mushroom Festival, JELL-O Art Show and lots of great alt music, art and enterprise conceived in creative rebellion. And of course Eugene empties for Oregon Country Fair like Burns empties for deer season. One less-known counterculture event is the **Shy Persons Talent Show** that packed Sam Bond's Garage the evening of April 11. This showcase of amateur music, dance and storytelling has been going strong for 22 years and might be seeking a bigger venue next year. More than gray old hippies hobbled in; it was good to see kids performing on the stage. The fun and lively event raised money for Occupy Medical and David Oaks.

• Also Saturday night was the **Eugene Ballet Company's Tommy**, taking The Who's iconic pinball wizard and dancing the story, with original choreography by EBC's Toni Pimble and accompanied by a live band. Pretty impressive that the Eug can put on such original and high-caliber performances. Social media lit up with rave reviews, as did Bob Keefer's *Eugene Art Talk*. Our only regret was that there weren't more performances, something we hear ticket sales can't sustain. How do we change that?

• The "re-branding" of **Hillary Rodham Clinton** into a softer Elizabeth Warren is not fun to watch. If that and more than \$1 billion will keep the Republicans out of the presidency and away from Supreme Court nominations, we'll take it, but we are reminded that November 2016 is about 18 months away. That's a long time in American presidential politics.

• Retired Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O'Connor** earlier canceled her planned visit to Eugene this spring but now we hear she may appear in a video message May 1 at City Club of Eugene. The special program that Friday will focus on civic education — and it's a timely topic. Several bills in the Oregon Legislature deal with boosting civic engagement, particularly with young Oregonians. O'Connor is the founder of iCivics, a national nonprofit that promotes education about local, state and federal government, including our courts system. Such education is critical to a healthy democracy.

NEWS

COLIN GRAHAM AND JOHN O'MALLEY AT THE SPACE FOR THE HAMMERED LAMB



PHOTO ATHENA DELENE

QUEER PUB & NIGHTCLUB TO OPEN DOWNTOWN

The Hammered Lamb, a new pub and nightclub dedicated to the queer community, is slated to open this summer at 150 W. Broadway. The space has been vacant for two years and last housed the Lord Leebrick Theatre Company administrative office and HIV Alliance.

Owner-operator Colin Graham, a former senior manager at Skype, recently signed a five-year lease for the 2,770-square-foot space with the option to extend for another five years. Demolition for remodeling began April 13.

"If there is going to be a gay bar in town, I'm going to have to start it," Graham says, adding that it will be an entirely queer-owned and queer-run business. "I think Eugene is ready for it."

Early on in the process, Graham hired John O'Malley as event producer and marketing manager. O'Malley runs the monthly LGBTQ happy hour at The Barn Light across from Kesey Square.

The Hammered Lamb will be "an inclusive, empowering and safe space," O'Malley says.

After looking at properties in the Whit and near the UO campus, the duo agreed on downtown.

"Downtown is very hot right now," Graham says, ticking off a list of nearby developments such as the new Hilton Home2Suites hotel going in at the southwest corner of West 11th Avenue and Olive Street.

O'Malley says there were several features that attracted them to the spot on Broadway, including the glass-and-stone storefront, the space's width and a side entrance that will open to the nightclub, aka The Den.

"The separation of space allows for two different experiences," O'Malley says, adding that there will be two bars, one in the pub and one in the nightclub.

Graham, who lived in London for more than a decade, is using a queer pub he used to frequent there — Two Brewers — as a template. The Hammered Lamb will have a cozy pub feel, but it will be cleaner than its British counterpart, Graham says, laughing.

Shortly after moving to Eugene a few years ago and going through a divorce, Graham found himself struggling to answer the question: "Where does one go to meet other men in this town?"

When he Googled the terms "gay" and "Eugene," nothing came up, he says.

He has two goals for his new venture. "When you Google 'gay' and 'Eugene,' I want The Hammered Lamb to come up in the results," he says. The second goal, he says, is creating a space where "a gay man of any age can reasonably flirt without fear."

Graham and O'Malley add that while the pub and nightclub are dedicated to the queer community, people of all persuasions and identities are welcome. For more info visit hammeredlambeugene.com. — Alex V. Cipolle

ACTIVIST ! LERT

• A panel discussion about the pending **Pacific Connector Pipeline** and Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal will be from 6:30 to 8 pm Thursday, April 16, at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St. Panelists include Jody McCaffree, executive director of Citizens Against LNG, Stacey McLaughlin, a southern Oregon landowner facing eminent domain, and Ted Gleichman from the Sierra Club. See world350.org/ Eugene for more information.

• The theme of "**Achieving Equity in Policing**" continues at City Club of Eugene at noon Friday, April 17, at the Downtown Athletic Club, 999 Willamette. Panelists representing minority voices include Betsy Davis, Jack Radley and Salome Chimuku. \$5 for non-members. See cityclubofeugene.org.

• **Aloha Friday** is a free event at Cozmic on the third Friday of every month and this month features Peter Apo, a UO graduate and musician involved in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement. He will perform as well as talk about the movement. The event runs from 6 to 7:30 pm Friday, April 18, at Cozmic, 199 W. 8th Ave.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

• Kim Still of Saturday Market was incorrectly identified in last week's new brief on the cancellation of Earth Day Celebration at EWEB. Her official title at Saturday Market is manager of market promotions and advertising. Kimberly Cullen is the market's general manager, and Paulette Richards is the CEO and chair of the nonprofit's board. In that same story, the alternative People's Earth Day Celebration was noted as happening April 18, but the date has been changed to April 25.

LANE COUNTY AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

• ODOT is currently spraying roadsides. Call Tony Kilmer at ODOT District 5 at 744-8080 or call 1-888-996-8080 for herbicide application information. **Hwys. 58, 99 near Cottage Grove, 105 and 126 in Springfield and Beltline** were sprayed recently.

• Walton Hylomorphia, 343-4167, plans to spot spray 179.1 acres abutting **Stagecoach Road** near the Siuslaw with glyphosate, imazapyr, triclopyr with acid, W.E.B. Oil and/or AD-Wet 90 CA. See ODF notification 2015-781-05877, call Robin Biesecker at 935-2283 or Jim Hall at 997-8713 with questions.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy and Gary Hale, ForestlandDwellers.org